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BATTLEFORD, SASK:

Town and District.

Battleford District is attracting so much attention at the present time that a few words descriptive of its position and advantages will be of interest to enquirers after homes.

The Town of Battleford is situated on a beautiful plateau near the confluence of the North Saskatchewan and Battle Rivers, in the midst of a rich and extensive district containing many thousands of sections of land well suited for settlement.

The town is ninety miles from Saskatoon, on the Prince Albert Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but will soon have one of its own, the Canadian Northern being surveyed to pass along the opposite or north side of the Saskatchewan, less than two miles from town, and crosses to the south side a few miles above it; and the preliminary steps have been taken to survey a branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway through town and on to the Pacific Coast.

The eastern boundary of the District is near Eagle Creek, 35 miles from Saskatoon, and it extends westward for a distance of nearly 250 miles, with an average width of about 75 miles, lying on both sides of the Saskatchewan; but even outside of that there is any quantity of good land and choice locations for cattle ranches.

The settlements that occur at intervals through this area are large and long enough established to prove the fertility of the soil and the salubrity of the climate.

The country is adapted for either ranching or mixed farming. The soil generally is loam, light in parts but grows deeper and heavier as you go west; yet the lightest of it has produced crops rarely equalled in the Territories; and experience has further proved that it becomes heavier every year as its constituents are acted upon by light and air. Oats that weigh 45 to 48 pounds to the bushel and yield over 100 bushels to the acre are common; and Wheat weighing 65 to 68 pounds, 30 to 40 bushels to the acre has been grown. This is not the average but is the result of good seed well handled. And what one man has raised another can

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if he goes about it in the same way. In fact, as good grain crops are raised here, and with just as much ease and certainty as can be done in any other part of the Territories. Vegetables and root crops grow to the greatest perfection.

All kinds of small fruits flourish and bear abundantly and come through the winters safely without other protection than is given by the snow. Plums have been successfully grown, and although no apples have matured, grafted trees set out four or five years ago have made vigorous growth and have perfectly withstood the winters. In this connection we cannot do better than quote from the remarks of Prof. W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, at the last meeting of the Western Horticultural Society, Winnipeg :

"Prof. Macoun reminded the audience that twenty years ago his father, addressing an audience in Winnipeg had stated that the time would come when millions of bushels of wheat would be shipped from Manitoba. They thought him a dreamer then, but the dream had come true. He would hardly venture to foretell that at some date millions of bushels of apples would be shipped from Manitoba, but he did think that it would not be long before large quantities of fruit would be grown here."

All kinds of flowers and shrubs grow here as well as they do in Manitoba or Ontario, and some of them seem to be richer and more vigorous.

Nearly half the land in the district being open to Homestead Entry, and the other half purchasable at \$3 an acre, payable in ten years with interest at six per cent. per annum, gives the homeseeker a grand opportunity of getting the best land and location, because they will have the first choice. But where all is so good they will find it more difficult to suit themselves than if there were some poor land around.

There is enough timber for all the farmer's needs, but he has no clearing or grubbing to do—the land is either fit for the plough, timbered, or hay meadow; and that it yields good crops on the first ploughing is amply proved by the experience of the settlers, and very notably by those who moved in two years ago.

The country is generally well watered, there being, besides the North Saskatchewan and Battle Rivers that flow nearly parallel through the whole length of the district from west to east, with their tributary streams and rivers, numberless springs and lakes, the latter fed by creeks that have their rise many miles away; and water can everywhere be found by digging a reasonable depth.

There are practically no taxes to pay. Each quarter-section is subject to a tax of \$2 a year for local improvements, which can only be spent in the district in which it is levied; and buildings and other improvements on the farm, live stock, machinery, etc., are exempt from taxation. The only other tax collectable is the Public School tax, but as the Government pays about 60 per cent of the teacher's salary the amount the settler has to pay is not worth considering.

An important point in this connection is that all the lands held by railway corporations is subject to the same taxation as the settler's lands, so that he gets the benefit of it on the roads and bridges, the construction and maintenance of the principal ones being assumed by the Government.

The School law is so liberal that a "school district" can be organized whenever there are four actual residents and twelve children of school age within an area not exceeding five miles in length or breadth exclusive of road allowances.

The general character of the Horses and Cattle bred here is high, good stallions of various breeds being found all through the district. Durhams are the principal cattle raised and are high class, being bred almost exclusively from thoroughbred sires, but Ayreshires and Herefords are being introduced.

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ample room for the growth of a large city and excellent facilities for drainage. There are three large stores, carrying in stock everything required for the house, the farm or the ranche; two hotels, two blacksmith shops, two livery stables; a good grist, saw and planing mill and lumber yard; five agricultural implement warehouses, two notaries, two doctors; Protestant and Roman Catholic public schools, a Church of England, a Presbyterian and a Roman Catholic Church. The public institutions are: An Indian Industrial School, conducted by the Church of England, where 100 Indian children of both sexes are educated and trained in the ways of the white man; the Dominion land agency and registry office; a post of the North-West Mounted Police, and the Indian Agency; a telegraph and telephone service, and an Agricultural Society. There are also two well-supplied butcher shops.

There is one newspaper, the SASKATCHEWAN HERALD (Weekly), published by Mr. P. G. Laurie, in the columns of which actual or intending settlers will in every issue find something interesting and instructive concerning the district. It will aid them in making the selection of a homestead by showing the progress of railway construction and the trend of settlement, and later with the doings of their neighbors. The subscription price is \$1.25 a year, post-paid to any part of Canada or the United States.



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HOMESEEKERS desirous of visiting the Battleford District can obtain Teams with competent drivers at

TAYLOR & ROWLAND'S LIVERY BARN,

SASKATOON, SASK.

JAMES CLINKSKILL,

ESTABLISHED 1882

DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF GOODS,

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(Full information regarding Battleford District can be furnished by application at either Saskatoon or Battleford.